

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 180
By Fowler

A RESOLUTION urging CBS to cease production of *The Real Beverly Hillbillies* reality television show.

WHEREAS, the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) has developed plans to air a new reality television series, entitled *The Real Beverly Hillbillies*, in which an economically disadvantaged family from Appalachia is paid to move to Beverly Hills and to allow their lives to be monitored by television cameras, so that viewers may follow the triumphs and trials associated with their cross-country relocation; and

WHEREAS, such a program is an affront to the righteous and industrious citizens of the Appalachian region, as it perpetuates entrenched and destructive stereotypes and makes these fine people the object of derision rather than exemplars of compassion and goodwill; and

WHEREAS, the offensive nature of the proposed show is indicated even in its title, as the term "hillbilly" has come to be known as a derogatory and derisive term; and

WHEREAS, in reality, the people of the Appalachian region have historically possessed the very qualities that formed the fundamental elements of the pioneering American spirit: love of liberty, personal courage, capacity to withstand and overcome hardship, unstinted hospitality,

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intense family loyalty, innate humor, trust in God and fervent independence, qualities that more citizens of this great country would do well to emulate; and

WHEREAS, this great nation was founded upon the ideals of liberty, justice and equality for all, and its founding fathers intended, as expressed by George Washington, to “give to bigotry no sanction and to persecution no assistance”; and

WHEREAS, in a time in which, as indicated by United States Senator Zell Miller, one out of every six Americans speaks a language other than English in his or her home, the mass media should strive to encourage viewers to respect the human dignity of all in American culture, rather than promote prejudice by ridiculing regional differences among the country’s population; and

WHEREAS, those businesses which, like the Columbia Broadcasting System, have the opportunity to influence American culture should defend, rather than exploit, the most vulnerable and defenseless among us; and

WHEREAS, because a significant portion of this great State lies within the Appalachian region, many Tennessee citizens would be harmed by such a vicious media focus on the circumstances surrounding their way of life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby urge the Columbia Broadcasting System to cease production of *The Real Beverly Hillbillies* and to abolish plans to broadcast such series.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to CBS.